

28

THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE
TO THE TOWN.

In compliance with a vote of the Town the trustees of the Peabody fund submit their annual Report.

It gives us pleasure to announce to the Inhabitants that the building now and hereafter to be known as the Peabody Institute is nearly completed, and that it will soon be ready for occupation for all the purposes for which it was intended. A contract for building it was made with Messrs. Russell and White of Salem, and Franklin A. Merrill of Danvers. The amount to be paid for completing it throughout was fifteen thousand three hundred dollars, and the result was that the bills were within that amount. The work was well and faithfully done, approved by Mr. Bond the architect, and accepted by the building Committee. Its exterior appearance has been much admired by strangers, and its interior arrangements are convenient and well adapted for the purposes for which they were designed.

The library committee have been diligent in discharging the duties assigned them by the town. In their report to the trustees they

remarked, "that they think it very desirable to use all possible despatch in preparing the library to be opened to the Inhabitants, the labor required is much greater than is supposed by those who have not had experience in such matters" to the truth of this statement the trustees most cheerfully bear testimony. A part of the library Committee have manifested great industry and devotion in preparing the library for use. About two thousand books have been purchased, the most of which are now placed upon the shelves of the library room.

With regard to the fund we would state that the amount of the contract for the building has been paid. The land has also been paid for. Three thousand dollars have been appropriated for the library,—other bills have been paid. We have only now to furnish seating for the hall, which is being done in a comfortable, and beautiful manner; and to erect a proper fence around the building. The balance of the fund is now partly invested and partly loaned on interest.

The building it is expected will be publicly dedicated in the course of the present month, of which due notice will be given.

R. S. DANIELS, Chairman.

Danvers, April 10, 1854.

